

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Troopers Take Part in Click It or Ticket Mobilization, *Urge Motorists to Buckle Up During Memorial Day Travel*

MONTGOMERY — State troopers and law enforcement agencies across Alabama are stepping up enforcement of Alabama's safety belt and child restraint laws in conjunction with the nationwide Click It or Ticket Mobilization May 24-June 6. Memorial Day travelers especially are encouraged to buckle up and drive safely during the May 28-31 holiday period.

"No one expects to be involved in a traffic crash," said Col. Mike Coppage, Public Safety director. "The simple act of buckling up can provide life-saving protection when the 'unexpected' happens. And remember, your life is worth it.

"I encourage Alabama motorists to use their safety restraints on every trip, whether it's vacation travel or a short trip across town," said Coppage.

At checkpoints and during patrols, troopers will ticket motorists who fail to buckle up to increase safety belt use and reduce traffic injuries and fatalities. Federal grants administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs will help fund the safety belt blitz. Troopers also will be watchful for all traffic offenses, including DUI and speed limit violations.

Troopers will concentrate patrols on popular vacation routes as part of Operation CARE, Combined Accident Reduction Effort, a joint effort by state police agencies nationwide to emphasize enforcement and safety education during holiday periods. Designated CARE highways for the holiday period include all interstates, and U.S. 231 and 331 in the state's southern section.

The Department of Public Safety estimates that 13 people may die as the result of traffic crashes in Alabama during the 78-hour Memorial Day holiday travel period that begins Friday, May 28, at 6 p.m. and ends at midnight Monday, May 31.

Last year 67 percent of the Memorial Day traffic fatalities involved alcohol, and 44 percent of those killed were not buckled up. Nine motorists lost their lives in traffic crashes during the 78-hour holiday travel period, six on rural roads and three in urban areas.

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